

## **Object Handling at Temple Newsam - April 2023**

The History Group enjoyed an Historical Object Handling Session at Temple Newsam in April. We were able to get up close and personal with a large variety of precious ceramics and textiles. So precious in fact that the table had to be given a spongy tablecloth and protective gloves were essential wear for us all.

We learnt about the development of ceramics through the ages by studying examples of different types, including both original Chinese porcelain and subsequent later British copies. The Far East guarded their production secrets so well that the West did not work out how to make porcelain for themselves until 700 years after China!

The fabric samples we handled also explained the timeline of textile development. We examined woven and embroidered silks plus hand painted and block printed cottons. We were also able to look in detail at an 1830s young lady's dress and marvel at the tiny handstitching throughout the complexly structured garment.

We learnt that in times gone by ladies garments didn't have pockets. Instead they had separately made pockets fastened to their waist under their dresses which they accessed via large slits in the folds of their skirts - an early form of handbag perhaps!